



Approved For Release 2002/06/18 : CIA-RDP83B00100R000100130002-0

UNITED STATES LIAISON OFFICE

PEKING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

November 26, 1976

SECRET

25X1A

[Redacted]
Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington, D.C. 20505.

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Dear [Redacted]

We all here are most appreciative of your letter to me dated November 10. We are continually working hard to improve our reporting, and its timeliness and accuracy has the highest priority. Also we try to separate reliable facts from fiction, or at least identify them as such accordingly. Your report on how our information was used on Sunday October 10th was most interesting and is a fine example of how we should always be working together. It is, to my mind, almost a case study in this respect. I hope the pattern will continue to be followed and if possible even improved further. Therefore it is very good for our morale here to have you take the time to write, and we are grateful for your generous comments.

I am pleased the books got back to you finally. Anne worried about them for a long time. We hated to give them up, frankly, so we found a way of ordering them to have them permanently for ourselves. They are of enormous help to us.

With much appreciation,

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Gates

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

10 November 1976

National Intelligence Officers

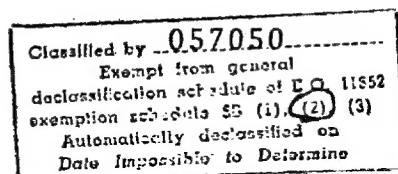
The Honorable Thomas S. Gates
United States Liaison Office
Peking, People's Republic of China

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

Recent reporting from USLO in Peking has made the situation in China come alive for us back here. It is not only exciting but it gives us a jump on others.

I thought you might be interested in how we responded to your telegrams which arrived here on Sunday, 10 October with the first information on the purge of the four. I received a phone call from the CIA Ops Center about 9:30 Sunday morning and was told there was unconfirmed information that a purge might be underway. The Ops Center emphasized that this information was only preliminary. Fifteen minutes later I received a call from [redacted] asking me what I thought of the initial reporting. I told him I was going to go in to read the reports right away and deferred comment. I also determined that George Bush had been informed of this early unconfirmed reporting. When I got to the Ops Center I found that there were in fact three messages from USLO covering the reported purge: one telegram based on [redacted] and one with an analysis of the 10 October editorial which suggested that a purge was coming.

Based on this I first alerted NSA whose watch officers had seen none of the USLO messages and asked them [redacted] We called the State watch officer and suggested that the Secretary be informed. Habib had already been briefed. We then had the CIA Directorate of Operations alert [redacted] At the same time we started an analytical piece on the purge (referred to



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as a "whizzer") which used your three pieces of information. This "whizzer" was sent to the White House, State and Defense that same Sunday. After seeing the three pieces of data from USLO and starting the "whizzer", I decided to phone George Bush who had gone to Connecticut for the day. We finally connected that same Sunday afternoon and I told him the purge seemed to be "for real" and it involved the four commonly referred to as the Shanghai Mafia.

25X1C The next day, Monday, we made sure that USLO was notified about [redacted]

Since that time USLO reporting has been timely, interesting, informative and, to our knowledge, accurate. Accuracy is always difficult in a fast breaking situation in China where rumors abound but your coverage makes the necessary distinctions between what is reliable and what might be fiction. One interesting aspect is that the Chinese are becoming relatively more outspoken about events in China. Of course, we don't know if this trend will continue but it is a marked contrast from the time when I was in Peking when the Chinese said very little to anyone.

Thank you for returning our treasured books on Peking. It's good to know that you and Mrs. Gates enjoyed them as much as we did. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to help you. My best to David Dean and Chris.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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25X1A cc: [redacted] EA/PRCM

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Executive Registry

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

8 December 1976

National Intelligence Officers

FOR: DCI

VIA: D/DCI/NI

FROM:

I'm attaching some recent correspondence I have had with Ambassador Gates in Peking. I thought you might be interested in this exchange. Incidentally, David Dean says that he thinks the Chinese authorities will clamp down on information leaks and he senses this may have already begun. I took the occasion of a dinner last night to express our appreciation to David Dean because he in fact has had a lot to do with sharpening USLO reporting. David is due back in Peking around 20 December.

Attachment:
Two Letters



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